

REMARKS

Claims 11-21 are pending in the present application. Claims 11, 15-19 and 21 are herein amended. Claims 12-14 are herein cancelled. Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has rejected claim 13 [Applicants believe the Examiner is referring to claim 14] because of the presence of the indefinite term "allowed to have". The Examiner contends that "[e]ither the pitches have variation or they do not." Applicants have cancelled claims 13 and 14. In view of the cancellation of claims 13 and 14, it is believed that this objection is now moot and should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has rejected claims 15-21 [Applicants believe the Examiner is referring to claims 15-18 and 20-21] are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner contends that "[c]laim 15 is indefinite because they do not recite any structure for the formation of the "at least two areas" and therefore does not represent a definite physical structural arrangement. Such areas may be defined as any imaginary surface desired."

Applicants have amended the aforesaid claims to recite method steps such that the scope of the amended claims 15-21 can be ascertained with reasonable certainty when read in light of

the specification. Applicants submit that the amended claims 15-21 particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 11-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Satou (6,517,212). Applicants have amended independent claim 11 to further distinguish it from the cited art. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added to the application by way of the above Amendment. Accordingly, the entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 11

Claim 11, as amended, calls for ... *said pitch of the plurality of optical members have variations so that light fluxes of respectively different patterns are incident on each lens portions of a light-incidence side fly's eye lens in the pair of fly's eye lenses.*

Applicants respectfully assert that Satou fails to disclose *the pitch of the plurality of optical members have variations so that light fluxes of respectively different patterns are incident on each lens portions of a light-incidence side fly's eye lens in the pair of fly's eye lenses.* As such, Applicants submits that Satou does not anticipate claims 11 and 19. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102 be withdrawn.

Independent claim 15

Claim 15, as amended, calls for ... *dividing the light mixing member into at least two areas by a line perpendicular to join lines of the first optical elements and the second optical elements; and deviating the join lines in a certain area out of the divided areas from the join lines in a different area out of the divided areas, so that the join lines in the certain area and the join lines in the different area are not aligned in a straight line.*

For example, as noted in first full paragraph on page 13 of the present specification, “[] the reflection mixing member 13’ is **divided into the areas** as mentioned above, and **the ridge lines (join lines)** of the triangular prisms in **the area A is deviated from those in the area B**, so **that the ridge lines in the area A and the ridge lines in the area B are not aligned in a straight line**”

In column 6, lines 1-8 and 15-16, Satou discloses that multiple prisms 5 are arranged stepwise at substantially regular intervals and according to said arrangement, light rays from light sources 1 and 2 are separated comb-like so as to interpolate the gaps of each light source with those of the other light source. That is, light beams from light sources 1 and 2 are arranged alternately, whereby making it possible to cancel the light intensity difference dependent on the incident angle due to light source difference.

Based on above, Applicants submit that the arrangement disclosed in claims 15-18 and 20-21 is completely different from that of Satou and, as such, Satou would not anticipate each and every limitation of claims 15-18 and 20-21. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102 be withdrawn.

Application No.: 10/550,886
Art Unit: 2851

Amendment under 37 CFR §1.111
Attorney Docket No.: 053178

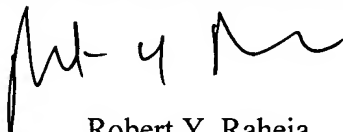
Conclusion

The claims have been shown to be allowable over the prior art. Applicants believe that this paper is responsive to each and every ground of rejection cited in the Office Action in the Action dated June 6, 2008, and respectfully request favorable action in this application. The examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Y. Raheja', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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